GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:370
ANSWERED ON:17.11.2016
Need for Ecology Balance in the Areas of NH
Singh Shri Bharat

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that a lot of natural vegetation is destroyed in the process of construction of National Highways and as a result thereof the ecology of that area is badly affected, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government contemplates to take some corrective action for replantation of natural vegetation in the areas where National Highways were constructed; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN)

(a) to (c) Loss of natural vegetation is an inevitable consequence of highway development. However, efforts are made to avoid, minimize, and mitigate this loss subject to technical feasibility. Adequate regulatory mechanism exists in the Country to take care of environmental impacts of highway projects, and provide for suitable mitigation measures. All National Highways projects have provision of plantations, as and when due. Plantations are generally undertaken after substantial completion of civil works. Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has also launched the Green Highways (Plantation, Transplantation, Beautification, & Maintenance) Policy, 2015 to promote greening of Highway corridors with participation of the community, farmers, private sector, NGOs, and government institutions.

*****